

Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) An automated order processing system permitting customers who have already provided customer information to the system to order selected products from a vast array of products offered by multiple participating merchants, wherein one such product is a check-in security clearance and participating merchants include airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues, said system comprising:

a database including information corresponding to an order number assigned to each product offered through the system by multiple participating merchants, wherein at least one of the products offered is a check-in security clearance;

a customer database including a customer information set for each system customer, said information set including extensive customer identification information that is obtained from third party sources provided independent of the customer;

a customer interface for receiving incoming product orders from customers who have connected to the system via a system address and for identifying each customer placing an order;

means employing information from the customer database for matching each incoming customer order to the customer information set for that customer;

means employing information from the database for matching each incoming customer order to a participating merchant;

means for communicating processed orders to the participating merchant that provides the ordered product; and

the participating merchant, in response to receiving the processed order, providing a random multi-digit code that the customer can present at time of check-in; and generating a security rating that is displayed to an agent at the time the customer presents the multi-digit code.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A method permitting customers to use an order processing system to order check-in security clearance from a participating merchant, the ~~and~~ participating merchant including airlines or other entities providing security services at public transportation sites or other public venues, said method comprising:

establishing accounts between an order processing system and a participating merchant;

assigning an order number to each check-in security product offered by the participating merchant;

establishing a customer database including a customer information set for each customer, said information set including extensive information provided by third parties independent of the customer-identification;

each customer entering into the system a customer order number identifying the specific check-in security clearance desired and utilizing a system address to establish contact with the system;

identifying each customer placing an order and employing information from the customer database to match each incoming customer order number to the customer information set for that customer; and

communicating processed orders to the participating merchant that provides the check-in security clearance; and

generating a security rating based at least in part on the information provided by third parties independent of the customer correlated with information regarding other customers attempting to obtain a check-in security clearance; and

the participating merchant verifying that the customer can be granted the check-in security clearance based on the security rating.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A method permitting customers to use an order processing system to automatically provide customer identification information to security personnel at public transportation sites or other public venues where customers desire entry, said method comprising:

establishing accounts between an order processing system and security operations at public transportation sites and other public venues;

assigning an order number by which a customer's desire to gain entry to public transportation site or other public venue may be communicated to the system;

establishing a customer database including a customer information set for each customer, said information set including customer identification information;

each customer, when desiring entry at a public transportation site or public venue that requires identity verification, utilizing a system address to establish contact with the system and entering an order number;

verifying the identity of each customer following the customer's entry of an order number and employing information from the customer database to match each incoming customer order to the customer information set for that customer; and

communicating the system's verification of the identity of the customer and selected portions of the customer identification information in the customer database to the public transportation site or public venue for use by security personnel at the site or venue in further verifying the identity of the customer desiring entry; and

communicating criteria that must be met before granting the customer entry.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the customer identification information in the customer database includes digital photographs of customers.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 including the step, performed by the order processing system, of monitoring activities associated with individual customers and cross referencing the activities of customers to generate a customer security rating that is communicated to the public transportation site or public venue for use by security personnel at the site or venue.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of monitoring activities associated with individual customers includes the step of monitoring recent travel activities of the customer.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of monitoring activities associated with individual customers includes the step of receiving data from security agencies.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of applying artificial intelligence engines to cross-reference activities of multiple customers.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of: providing the individual customer with a random multi-digit code for the customer; and

at time of check-in, an agent entering the multi-digit code into a computer which confirms the prior verification of identity.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of generating a probability of risk associated with the individual customer and only allowing the customer to enter if the probability of risk does not satisfy a cut-off value.